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update

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Cease-fire in Mozambique eases obstacles to relief

An agreement was signed in Mozambique on 16 July, enabling international relief workers to enter rebel-held areas affected by famine and drought. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is now assisting the National Planning Commission in drawing up provincial reconstruction plans. In addition, seeds and tools are being offered to displaced populations to help them resume food production.

UNDP is also coordinating the arrival of relief assistance to Mozambique, which is suffering from the worst drought this century. UNDP is working with the World Food Programme to provide emergency planning and management assistance to five provinces. "Our aim is to ensure there is no congestion on the port, rail and road systems as the relief assistance arrives," says UNDP's Resident Representative in Angola, Peter Simkin.

Many donors have pledged support, but have not outlined any time-frame for the arrival of this relief assistance. UNDP is following up the pledges, as well as reporting on the use of resources and relief aid that have already been used.

An Update update: Global Forum pays its bills

A story that went to press for the 29 June issue of *Update* was written too early to indicate the total amount that was finally raised to close the $2 million funding gap of the Global Forum. The Global Forum was a gathering of international non-governmental organizations that paralleled the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio De Janeiro. UNDP contributed $500,000 and launched an initiative to meet the Forum's shortfall. As a result, six donor governments, three UN agencies, two Brazilian corporations, four foundations, numerous NGOs and individuals contributed enough funds to balance the Global Forum's budget before the end of the conference.

Namibian Prime Minister outlines priority needs with UNDP officials

Tackling the current drought, registering voters for elections this fall, restructuring the civil service, reducing the unemployment rate, and increasing national revenues are priorities of Namibia, according to Prime Minister Hage Geingob. He and five top advisers met with UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III and other officials on 13 July to discuss future areas of UNDP assistance to the young government of independent Namibia.

"We want to help Namibia as much as we can," Mr. Draper told the Prime Minister. UNDP will assist in managing the current drought emergency, which has affected more than 625,000 people. This support will include the creation of government machinery within the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development to prepare for future natural disasters.

"We can begin to alleviate poverty through self-help projects, and by providing credit to small businesses," said Prime Minister Geingob. The possibility of UNDP's Capital Development Fund providing small-scale loans through revolving credit funds was advanced. Another proposal would create a training centre to strengthen the skills of judicial personnel, including magistrates, prosecutors and police officers.

The Prime Minister told Mr. Draper that the government has undertaken a series of reforms to redress long-neglected national problems. An electoral commission is in place, but detailed logistics must still be ironed out before the local elections are held later this year. With many restrictions lifted and new laws enacted, foreign investors have more incentives to invest in Namibia. The national budget has been refocused to reduce military expenditures and place more emphasis on education and health.

Donors commend economic reforms of newly unified Yemen

International donors recently completed a two-day historic dialogue on development issues with the newly unified Republic of Yemen, signalling their firm support of the government's economic and social reforms. The meeting was one of the first expressions of

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projects approved: **Argentina computerizes government offices • Bolivia bolsters public investment • Civil aviation training for Brazil • Brazil modernizes telecommunications • Monitoring forest resources in China • Improved telecommunications for China • Increasing investment in Indonesia • Education reform for Morocco • Better medical equipment for Morocco • Improved land management for Vietnam • Grants for self-help initiatives • Expanded TCDC workshops and information dissemination**

international donor support since the Gulf crisis. The intensive discussions took place at the first Round Table Conference for Yemen, organized by UNDP in Geneva.

Strengthening relations with its development partners is vital to Yemen as it begins building two widely different political, economic and social systems into a single, integrated one. The challenge is heightened by the return of nearly one million Yemenis from neighbouring countries.

In endorsing Yemen's commitment to economic reform, donors cited the country's commitment to a market system, to reducing the budget deficit, and to forming a multi-party system.

Donor countries at the Round Table Conference included Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Oman, the United Kingdom and the United States. Several UN agencies also participated.

Three human development initiatives stem from high-level UNDP meetings with top Moroccan officials

Human development in Morocco was the topic of discussion at two high level meetings held at UNDP headquarters earlier this month. Morocco's Minister of Planning, Mr. Rachidi El Rhezouani, and his close advisers met with UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III, and Dr. Mahbub ul Haq, the chief architect of UNDP's *Human Development Reports*.

The Minister congratulated UNDP on its global initiative in launching the *Human Development Report*. He expressed concern, however, that the Report does not reflect the actual human development situation in Morocco. A 1990-91 household survey in the country uncovered more current data on living conditions. He said this new information should be included in the next volume of the Report.

As a result of these official discussions, three decisions were made. First, UNDP will organize a team of experts to review, with Moroccan officials, the country's recent living conditions survey. Second, UNDP will co-operate with the Government of Morocco in its on-going efforts to design a long-term, comprehensive human development strategy. Third, it was agreed that the next *Human Development Report* might highlight Morocco's decentralization policy, employment strategies, and its policy of popular participation in economic and social development.

Approved projects

(all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

Argentina—The objective of this project is to strengthen the management and administrative efficiency of the Ministry of Economy and Public Works. The documents processed within the Ministry will be computerized. Work stations and printers will be installed, and Ministry staff will be trained to use the computers.

Additional UNDP contribution: $105,000. Government cost-sharing: $17,214,946. Funds will provide training, equipment, and experts in informatics, computer installation and computer training. Executed by the government, and implemented by the Ministry of Economy and Public Works. (ARG/91/010)

Bolivia—UNDP will work with the government to develop a more coherent programme of public investment that will be consistent with national policies. Training will be provided to the relevant government offices handling public investment management. The aim will be to improve the government's capacity for identifying, formulating, evaluating, budgeting and monitoring public investment programmes.

Government cost-sharing (source of funds is the Inter American Development Bank): $1,995,495. Funds will provide a programme coordinator, a technical advisor, international consultants in macroeconomics, administration, and information systems. Executed by the Office of Project Services of UNDP. Implemented by the Ministry of Planning and Coordination. (BOL/92/003)

Brazil—UNDP will provide support to improve the planning, research and training capabilities of the country's civil aviation system. Training and equipment will be upgraded at the Civil Aviation Institute, the Flight Protection Institute, the Aeronautical Technological Institute, and the Aircraft Accidents Prevention and Investigation Centre.

UNDP contribution:$100,000. Government cost-sharing: $5,832,675. Funds will provide training, international experts, fellowships and equipment for planning research and aeronautical data processing. Government executed, and implemented by the International Civil Aviation Organization. (BRA/92/006)

Brazil—TELEBRAS is the holding company which controls nearly all of the telecommunications services in Brazil. UNDP will assist TELEBRAS in expanding and modernizing its services, training capabilities, and software development.

UNDP contribution: $150,000. Government cost-sharing: $28,764,800. Funds will be used for equipment, training and experts in communications networks, market studies, optical fibre use, management and software applications. Government executed and implemented by TELEBRAS. (BRA/92/012)

China—The government has a long-standing goal to increase forest coverage by the end of the century. UNDP will provide technical assistance to establish a national forest resources monitoring system. The means for forecasting harmful insects and disease will be improved, and the research and development capabilities of the Paulownia Research Institute of China will be enhanced. High-yielding seed orchards will be developed, along with fast-growing

plantation species.

UNDP contribution: $6,514,630. Government cost-sharing: $1,580,000. Funds will be used for forestry management consultants, training, and equipment for seed research and insect control. Executed by the government and implemented by the Ministry of Forestry. (CPR/91/150)

China—UNDP will help the government establish standards for modern telecommunications components. New designs will be introduced to the national manufacturing sector to improve the quality of locally manufactured telecommunications equipment. Management training will be provided for telecommunications experts.

UNDP contribution: $7,500,000. Government cost-sharing: $3,000,000. Funds will be used for technical and managerial consultants, demonstration laboratories, computers and equipment. Executed by the government, and implemented by the Chinese International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchange, and the International Telecommunication Union. (CPR/91/230)

Indonesia—The main aim of this project is to increase foreign direct investment flows. UNDP will provide experts to improve investment policies and develop an investment information data base. A comprehensive training programme in investment promotion will be created for senior executives from the country's Investment Coordination Boards.

UNDP contribution: $1,274,929. Funds will cover training, computers and consultancy services for developing investment policies. Executed by the International Finance Corporation and implemented by the Investment Coordinating Board of Indonesia. (INS/90/010)

Morocco—The government has undertaken an educational reform programme to improve the quality of education and to reduce the drop-out rate, which is particularly high among girls. UNDP will help design an improved educational curriculum for rural populations.

UNDP contribution: $884,000. UNDP will finance managerial and technical experts, training and teaching materials. Executed by the Ministry of National Education. Implemented by the Planning Directorate. (MOR/92/021)

Morocco—A team of technicians and engineers will be trained to maintain and manage biomedical equipment and technical installations for hospitals. The economic and administrative structures will be created to ensure that the country's hospital equipment will be sufficiently maintained.

UNDP contribution: $719,460. Government cost-sharing: $178,500. Funds will be used for experts, training and equipment. Executed by the government, and implemented by the Ministry of Public Health. (MOR/92/011)

Vietnam—The chances of success of Vietnam's economic reform programme are limited by the issues of property rights and effective land use. UNDP will carry out a feasibility study on the cost of establishing a modern land management system. This project will also strengthen the capacity of the General Department of Land Management to implement the feasibility study, and manage an updated land resources information system.

UNDP contribution: $699,669. Cost-sharing and parallel financing from the Government of Western Australia: $997,618. Funds will provide an international project director, a project manager, team leader, surveyor, and a land law specialist. Executed by the State Committee for Sciences. Implemented by the General Department of Land Management. (VIE/91/004)

Interregional Projects

INT/92/—The Partners in Development Programme (PDP) was initiated by UNDP in 1988 to provide direct support for development activities by non-governmental organizations and community groups. The programme is being redefined. Grants will now be used for community-based self-help initiatives, capacity-building activities to strengthen community groups, and networking to improve the exchange of information among NGOs, UNDP and governments. UNDP field offices will develop country-specific strategies for PDP which will link the programme to national needs.

UNDP contribution: $7.5 million. Funds will be used for grants to NGOs and community groups. Executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services.

INT/92/901—Three complementary projects were approved to promote technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC). The first project is geared toward bolstering dissemination of information on TCDC. A series of workshops will be organized in various regions. Expanded information activities, including the production of videos and publications on TCDC, will be conducted. TCDC-INRES, the database of information on the technical capabilities of developing countries, will be enlarged.

UNDP contribution: $531,000. The project will cover the cost of workshops, training, consultants, and the production of information material. Executed by the Office for Project Services and implemented by participating governments of developing countries.

INT/92/902—The second TCDC project is designed to help developing countries to identify their technical capacities and needs in three sectors: food and agriculture, development planning, and air transport.

The participating countries will produce their own compendia of needs and capacities. Consultation meetings will be held to match needs with the technical capacities available from developing coun-

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tries. UNDP's Special Unit for TCDC will provide the airfare needed for the consultations, and will assist in the production and distribution of the compendia.

UNDP contribution: $600,000. Funds will be used for TCDC consultation travel expenses, and production of TCDC material. Executed by the Office for Project Services and implemented by participating governments of developing countries.

INT/92/903—This third TCDC project will fund the organization of 12 workshops, eight of which will be conducted on specific development issues of common concern to developing countries. Four are regional workshops to strengthen the functioning of national TCDC focal points. One high-level consultative meeting will review the progress of TCDC.

The development workshops will deal with the following issues: food processing technology, air transport, aid coordination in Africa, rural energy and privatization in Asia and the Pacific, South-South trade and external debt in Latin America and the Caribbean.

UNDP contribution: $662,000. Funds will be used for travel expenses for workshop participants from developing countries, and consultants to prepare discussion papers. Executed by the Office for Project Services, and implemented by participating developing country governments.

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UNDP helps carry out the peace in El Salvador

An important step in implementing the peace accords signed by the Government of El Salvador and the "Frente Farabundo Marti Para La Liberacion Nacional" (FMLN) will be supported by UNDP. More than 1,600 FMLN soldiers began giving up their weapons to join the El Salvadoran civilian world last month. This process of demobilizing guerrillas is scheduled for completion by 31 October 1992, according to the peace accords signed on 16 January 1992.

The government and the FMLN have asked UNDP to raise funds which will be used for basic provisions for the soldiers to ease their transition into the civilian world. The UNDP project will provide household goods including a stove, dishes, kitchen utensils, a kitchen table, chairs and a bed to 8,500 FMLN ex-combatants, and 2,200 disabled ex-combatants over the next five months. The project will be implemented in close coordination with the United Nations Mission of Observers in El Salvador.

While El Salvador will be financing the majority of this programme through a contribution from the United States Agency for International Development, the government will be unable to cover all the financial necessities of the FMLN members.

This unprecedented effort will cost just over $3.2 million. The government and the FMLN have specifically requested UNDP to mobilize external assistance for this component of the emergency programme.

Government contributions to this appeal should be identified as a "Trust Fund Contribution to Support the Reinsertion of the Ex-Combatants of the FMLN in El Salvador." The funds may be deposited in US dollars to: UNDP Contributions Account, Chemical Bank, UN Branch, No. 05-002284.

Emergency relief for drought-stricken Lesotho

UNDP will provide emergency technical and management support to the government offices in Lesotho which deal with disaster relief. The assistance will enable the government to deliver and manage drought emergency relief assistance.

In Lesotho, where more than half of the population lives below the poverty line, and the unemployment rate is estimated at 35 per cent, the drought has come at a time of economic hardship. Between 120,000 and 170,000 people have been severely affected by the worst drought this century.

Most of the maize crops have failed, and water shortages are acute. The cereal harvest this year is the worst in a decade, only about 40 per cent of the normal harvest.

Lesotho's relief assistance requirements were included in a drought emergency relief appeal issued in May. A special pledging conference was convened in Geneva in early June to solicit the requisite assistance from the international donor community.

UNDP will provide logistical backing for the national disaster coordinator's office and the Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organizations, and will enhance national capabilities in organizing, delivering, managing and monitoring relief assistance. UNDP will also provide a consultant on drought relief coordination, logistical and administrative support, a vehicle, a computer and other equipment.

Global Environment Facility gears up for Danube River clean-up

An $8.2 million Global Environment Facility project will help ensure the sustainable use and development of natural resources in the Danube River Basin. Waste generated by agro-processing, chemical, pulp and paper processing, mining and textile industries has significantly contributed to the pollution in the Danube River, which flows into the highly polluted Black Sea.

The difficulty of balancing economic activities with environmentally sound and sustainable management has been thrown into sharp focus in the Danube River Basin, located in the heart of South Central and South Eastern Europe.

The aim of the Global Environment Facility project is to set up

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the scientific, institutional and strategic mechanisms needed to plan and coordinate a long-term regional programme to manage the Danube River Basin. A network of offices and technical experts will be established for this purpose.

International and national environmental experts will be recruited to collect data and establish information systems. This data will be used to analyse sources of pollution, and assess their impact on the ecology, health and economy of the river basin area. The project will be implemented by UNDP's Office for Project Services. The World Bank will be sub-contracted to prepare a series of pre-feasibility studies to examine environmental investments for local and international funding.

Fund created for foreign exchange to Vietnam

Given the limited funding provided by external aid agencies to Vietnam and in view of the urgent need for capital assistance, the UNDP's Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) is providing $3 million to the Government of Vietnam to set up an industrial credit facility. This fund will provide medium-term loans, in foreign exchange, at a fixed interest rate to small and medium-sized rural manufacturing enterprises. Interest will be payable in local currency. These resources will enable businesses in the Province of Quang-Nam Danang to import machinery, equipment and spare parts.

External assistance to Vietnam is limited and prospects are not encouraging. In the past, assistance from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe was substantial, but is now declining sharply with the demise of the Soviet Bloc.

As part of the UNCDF project, an international credit office within the Danang branch of the Bank for Foreign Trade of Vietnam will be established to manage the loan operations. UNDP's Office for Project Services will recruit a banking expert, local finance consultants and an external auditing team. Technical assistance will be provided to identify borrowers, help potential borrowers prepare business proposals, and select and appraise appropriate suppliers. Training will also be provided in the area of credit analysis.

United Nations urges businesses and NGOs to work together in the fight against AIDS

Businesses are increasingly realising that the cost of preventive efforts at the workplace are far lower than the cost of caring for those affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. This was one conclusion which came out of a regional consultation on promoting the partnership between non-governmental organizations and private businesses to fight HIV/AIDS. The gathering was held in Hua Hin, Thailand in late June.

Organized by UNDP, the meeting for the Asia and Pacific region brought together representatives of private industry and non-governmental organizations to forge mutually beneficial exchanges in support of AIDS prevention.

Participants agreed that both business and NGOs have much to offer. Non-governmental organizations can provide guidance in development of HIV policies in the workplace, and AIDS education and counselling services to businesses. Private businesses, on the other hand, can provide financial and technical support to NGOs.

A statement issued in Bangkok by the United Nations in July noted, "It makes good business sense to support a healthy workforce, as deaths and sickness would decrease the quantity and productivity of the workforce and reduce income."

Friendly insects battle across continents to save a neglected crop

Buoyed by past successes, the Colombia-based International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and its Nigerian affiliate, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), have joined forces in a new pest management campaign. Their aim is to kill remaining cassava pests in Ghana, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon and northeastern Brazil.

CIAT will work in Brazil. IITA will spearhead the effort in West Africa. UNDP is providing funds to help the two institutes fend off the cassava pests using non-chemical methods. One potential tool in this campaign may be found in the form of a tropical fungus. The fungus is already used to attack the green mite in dry areas of tropical America.

In the past, CIAT and IITA banded together to control the mealybug which was destroying cassava plants in sub-Saharan Africa. IITA scientists knew that biological control of the mealy bug would be a safe and inexpensive way to control insect pests. Because of CIAT's knowledge of cassava pests in Latin America, IITA requested assistance.

In Latin America, wasps had proven to be a natural enemy of the mealybug. Entomologists collected and shipped wasps to Africa. There, IITA found a way to package and drop these "friendly insects" into affected areas by

airplane. These wasps finally brought the mealybug under biological control in Africa. The campaign has been revived, however, to eradicate new cassava pests.

Approved projects

(All projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

Angola – The country's presidential and legislative elections are scheduled for the fall. This project will help coordinate foreign assistance. It will provide logistical support, along with short-term organizational and procedural assistance. A permanent electoral register will be created for future elections.

UNDP contribution: $539,000. Third-party cost-sharing: $3,042,640. Funds will be used for radio equipment, computers electoral coordinators, and experts in civic education, electoral registration, communications, legal affairs, and logistics. Executed by the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Development, and implemented by the National Electoral Council. (ANG/91/019)

Bangladesh – In light of the growing demand for secondary education and the need for middle management and technical personnel, the government is reforming higher secondary education. UNDP is providing support to revise curriculum and improve teaching methods. Training will be offered to relevant offices to strengthen the educational management.

UNDP contribution: $2,651,000. Funds will support training, workshops, and international consultants in curriculum development. Executed by the Ministry of Education. Implemented by the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education. (BGD/91/022)

Bangladesh – It is critical for Bangladesh to improve the efficiency of its education system to meet the social and economic demands of the country. UNDP will develop the national capability to design and implement a national educational survey effectively and efficiently. The findings of the survey will be analyzed, published and distributed. The Bangladesh Bureau for Educational Information and Statistics will be strengthened to become the country's centre for managing educational information. The National Academy of Educational Management for advanced training and research will be upgraded in the fields of educational planning and management.

UNDP contribution: $3,520,000. Funds will provide advisers for educational information systems, and consultants in management training. Executed by the Ministry of Education. Implemented by the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics, and various offices of the Ministry of Education. (BGD/92/009)

Jamaica – The country is undergoing a rigorous structural adjustment programme with the support of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The objective of this project is to mitigate hardships imposed by structural adjustment. The specific goals include increased nutritional support to the poor, strengthening the food stamp programme, and enhancing management within the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Sport (MLWS).

UNDP contribution: $300,000. Government cost-sharing from the United States Department of Agriculture: $3,300,000. Funds will be used for a national project manager, training, computers and software. Government executed, with support from the World Food Programme, and implemented by MLWS. (JAM/92/002)

Regional Projects

RAS/92/076 – A principal outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) was the creation of Agenda 21, an environmental action plan for the 1990s and the 21st Century. UNDP will support a pilot project in six countries – Fiji, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam – that will develop customized national Agenda 21 policies. National mechanisms for inter-ministerial cooperation, public participation, and business involvement with Agenda 21 concerns will be established.

This programme will help increase awareness in the participating countries on the benefits of adopting sustainable development measures. In addition, databases will be established for storage and exchange of information on sustainable development.

UNDP contribution: $739,000. Funds will be used for workshops, a project coordinator, experts and UN Volunteers. Executed by the Office of Project Services. Implemented by relevant ministries dealing with Agenda 21.

Interregional Projects

INT/88/718 INT/92/701 INT/92/U01 – UNDP is working toward creating an on-going training capability in disaster

management within the UN system. The aim is to increase the capacity of UN personnel and field office staff, in disaster-prone countries, to plan and prepare for natural disasters. A reappraisal of needs in this area has led to the identification of 70 countries which should receive training in disaster management. The revised disaster management training strategy will support various training activities.

UNDP contribution: $1,300,000. Bilateral contribution: $2,957,100. Funds will be used for training workshops. Executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services.

INT/92/675 – This project will strengthen national capabilities in integrating gender into development policy. The aim is to develop new communications between the research community, policy makers and NGOs in order to incorporate gender concerns into ministry deliberations. Pilot projects will be designed by national researchers and policy makers in nine countries. The publication of these project documents will be of value to governments, research institutions, NGOs, and multilateral and bilateral agencies which wish to incorporate gender issues into their work.

UNDP contribution: $1,612,000. Funds will be used for consultants, United Nations Volunteers, travel and workshop costs, communications and computer equipment, and support for publications. Executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services.

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